(Amount Rs. In lakh)

Programme Year	Loans Disbursed	
	Number	Amount
2005-06	7584	5349.67
2006-07	7205	5201.36
2007-08	7737	6939.33

New SBI branch at Jangla, Shimla

1241. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is only one branch of UCO Bank at Jangla in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government is also aware that around 20 thousand people reside in nearby areas and they face a lot of difficulties as there is only one bank to cater to their needs;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to open a new branch of State Bank of India (SBI) in view of the needs of local businessmen and pensioners; and

(d) if so, the time by which the aforesaid branch is likely to be opened at Jangla in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. UCO Bank has reported that it has only one branch in Jangla centre, Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh. As per the 2001 census, Jangla has a population of 1093. Reserve Bank of India has reported that at present 165 branches of commercial banks function in Shimla district.

(c) and (d) Opening of new bank branches is governed by the provisions of Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Under the extant Branch Authorisation Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks are required to submit their Branch Expansion Plans for opening of branches etc., on an annual basis in line with their medium term corporate strategy. RBI while granting approvals ensures that the approvals include centers in rural/under banked districts also and gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in under banked areas. A list of underbanked districts has been forwarded to banks to enable them to identify centers for opening branches in such districts.

State Bank of India has reported that it is conducting a survey in the area and if found feasible, the bank will submit a proposal to RBI in this regard.

Use of fund obtained by disinvestment

†1242. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the name of the industries for which the targeted disinvestment of Rs. 1120 crore has been proposed for current financial year, in the Finance Minister's Budget speech of 2009-10;

(b) the manner in which the amount obtained through disinvestment would be used; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that this amount would be used to meet the fiscal deficit instead of development of infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Thus far, Initial Public Offerings have been completed in respect of NHPC Limited and Oil India Limited in 2009-10 and Government realized an amount of Rs.4259.90 crore. Each subsequent disinvestment will be considered on a case-by-case basis and submitted for approval by Government.

(b) and (c) The proceeds from disinvestment will be channelised into National Investment Fund and proceeds thus deposited between April 2009 and March 2012 will be available in full for meeting the capital expenditure requirements of selected Social Sector Programmes decided by the Planning Commission/Department of Expenditure.

Sale price of gas

1243. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would be losing huge revenue if the gas is sold at USD 2.34 to customers; and

(b) if so, what would be Government's response *vis-a-vis* RIL's share revenue, each year, if gas is sold at USD 2.34 and USD 4.2 respectively, to prospective customers for a period of 17 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indirect tax collection

†1244. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of indirect tax collection in October, 2009 as compared to the amount collected in October, 2008;

(b) whether the said collection has fallen as compared to the previous year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The provisional indirect tax collection from Customs duties, Central Excise and Service Tax in October 2009 is Rs.22,193 crore as compared to Rs.25,495 crore in October 2008.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.